

Socialist Worker

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism 40p

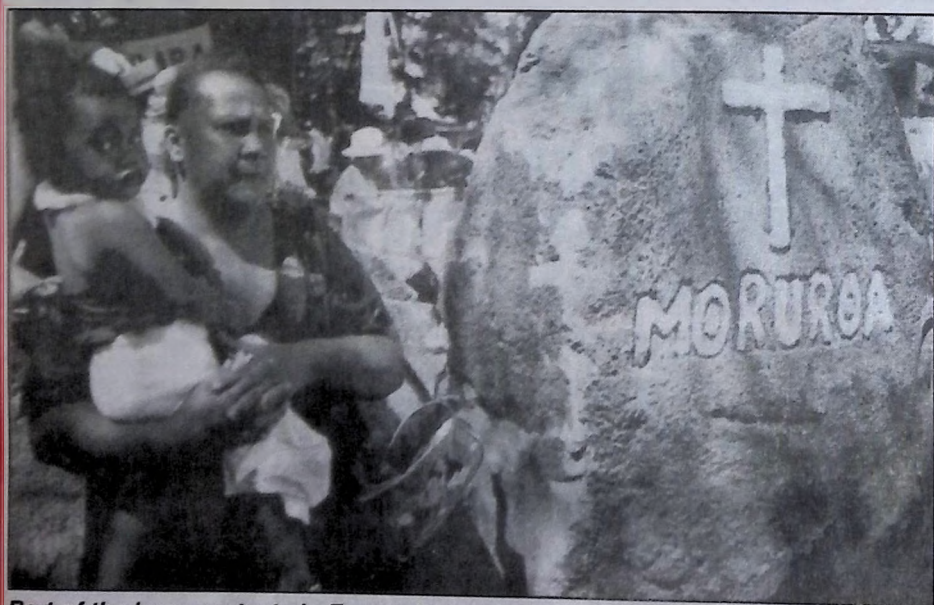
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Protests grow at French Nuclear tests



Part of the huge protests in French Polynesia

HUGE protests are growing against the French governments plans to resume nuclear testing in the South Pacific.

In Papeete, capital of French Polynesia, thousands took to the streets in protest.

In Australia, 40,000 people took to the streets on Hiroshima Day to voice their anger.

The rally in Melbourne was addressed by the President of the Australian Congress of Trade Unions.

An armada of peace boats have also gathered close to the testing site at Mururoa including the Greenpeace ship Rain-

bow warrior 2.

The French government have deployed 10 warships to try and keep the protesters at bay. In the past they have shown that they are willing to use force to ensure their tests go ahead.

Killing

Ten years ago, French secret service agents were responsible for blowing up Rainbow Warrior 1, killing a crew member, Fernando Pereira.

It is vital that the French government is defeated on this issue. If they get away with testing their nuclear bombs other governments will follow.

China has already conducted nuclear tests

and now the US Generals are clamouring to get in on the act.

Only workers action will stop a new nuclear weapons race starting all over again.

The South Pacific Congress of Trade Unions have called for a worldwide ban on French products.

Already Australian dockers have started a ban on some French products.

If the French government persists with these tests the Irish Congress of Trade Unions should join the international movement to stop a new arms race. It should instruct its members not to handle French goods until the threat to the people of the South Pacific is dropped.

The RUC did this

Rotten deal for Irish workers

IRISH WORKERS are still getting rotten pay and holiday deals while bosses take huge pay rises, latest statistics have shown. We also worked longer hours in 1992 than in 1983.

Industrial workers' wages only rose 1 per cent in 1994 while the cost of living went up 2.4 per cent. Middle managers' pay increased by 2.7 per cent.

Compared to the bosses' pay rises especially, these figures are peanuts. Allied Irish Bank (AIB) directors' pay and perks rose by more than a third—35 per cent in only one year.

At Cement Roadstone Holdings, chief executive Don Godson's pay rocketed by 40 per cent. Godson now earns £532,000 a year, just over £10,000 a week.

The Joint Labour Committee has just ruled that shop assistants and clerical workers need only be paid £90 a week in their first year.

Earn less

Pay rises should be £10 to £15 a year, it said—leaving you with a measly £163.50 after seven years!

It also set rates of pay for young people who work in supermarkets and shops.

They start at £1.61 an hour for 15 to 16-year olds and rise to £1.76 for those aged 16 to 17 and £2.13 for over-18s.

Industrial workers' average pay was £264.42 per week.

But this figure hides the fact that women workers still earn less than two thirds of men's wages: £190.05 a week compared to £304.06.

Meanwhile, statistics from Income Data Services have shown that Irish workers get less holidays than workers in any other European country.

By law, Irish bosses need only give three weeks' paid holidays and workers receive four weeks on average.

But even workers in Tory Britain get more, four to five weeks—without any legal minimum.

German workers' holidays average six weeks, twice the three weeks bottom line in German labour law.

Lobbying

Yet small Irish firms are still lobbying the government to stop an act enshrining a four-weeks minimum in Irish law.

As if all that was not enough, we've lately spent more time at work than in the early '80s.

In 1992 an Irish worker spent 40.4 hours on the job, up from 40.2 in 1983.

Only British workers' hours have increased more dramatically over that period, from 42.3 hours to 43.4 hours. Elsewhere the working week had shortened.

The bosses' fat salaries should put paid to any argument that we need to lighten our belts.

And with 300,000 on the dole we've got all the more reason to say 'no' next time they ask us to stay behind a little longer.

THIS IS Belfast man Thomas Toner who had his face shattered by an RUC plastic bullet on the Lower Ormeau Road last month.

Over 200 protesters had sat down to stop a loyalist parade on 12 August when the RUC moved in.

Thomas described how he was shot:

"I felt someone pull me on the shoulder and tell me to move and I turned my head and that was when I was hit."

The RUC man said "You're all Fenian bastards!" as he pulled the trigger.

Smashed

Thomas' face was split open, his cheekbone smashed in five places.

He received more than 60 stitches, lost a lot of teeth and has had two permanent steel plates inserted in his face.

Other people were dragged away from the demo by their hair.

The Assistant Chief Constable for Belfast had the nerve to say his officers had acted with "commendable restraint".

Shouts of "SS-RUC!"

Is mediation possible?

BELFAST Sinn Fein Councillor Alex Maskey and Derry's SDLP Mayor John Kerr have both suggested setting up a mediation service to discuss the re-routing of sectarian marches.

But could an 'impartial body' mediate a compromise when faced with potential confrontations? To start with, mediation suggests that both sides have equal rights.

But there can be no mediation between those who want to trample on other people's rights and those who simply want to go about their daily business.

Mediation isn't possible because Orangemen, or Apprentice Boys have no reason other than naked bigotry to march through or around Catholic

areas. Most Protestant working class people have no truck with this kind of behaviour. Indeed many of them see the Apprentice Boys and the Orange Order as outdated and irrelevant.

What's needed is for the trade union movement to organise a Day of Action against the rising tide of sectarianism, against continuing police brutality and for the release of political prisoners.

When tens of thousands of ordinary workers took to the streets against the atrocities on the Shankill Road and at Greysteel, the bigots were marginalised within their communities and sectarian tensions were eased. These demonstrations also had an effect in encouraging the cease-fires.

ever come out of them.

Nationalists are the RUC's prime targets, peace process or not.

But protestant workers also suffer from being kept separate from the people the RUC tries to contain in catholic ghettos.

Divided

The RUC keeps the two communities apart on the streets, and this makes it easier for the bosses to keep them divided in the workplace.

The outcome are measly wages for either group.

It helps the Tories, too, to play off Catholics against Protestants and tell them that they'll have to fight over scarce resources for hospitals, schools or better housing.

They want to make the sectarian divide part and parcel of the North through the Peace process.

The RUC is their tool in this, and that's why we have to get rid of them—the RUC as well as the bosses and the Tories.

Chemical risk at fertiliser plant

MANAGEMENT at Irish Fertilizer Industries, at Marino Point near Cork, claim that the company's safety standards "are among the highest in Europe."

But a recent accident has revealed that since May three fires have occurred in the plant.

The potentially lethal chemical, ammonia, is brought to the factory by rail.

Last month a carriage came off the rails.

It is a warning that a major accident could take place.

Safety

Workers are "not happy that the company is doing all it can about safety."

A fire occurred on May 12th.

One worker described it as "potentially very dan-

gerous".

Oil had gone on fire and had re-ignited after being put out.

Other incidents threatening the safety of the workforce and local residents include two ammonia leaks and the discovery of a scaffolding plank on the rail track.

It will be up to the unions to challenge the complacency of the IFI management and insist upon strict safety procedures.

Mental health care attacked

THE government has proposed that companies like the VHI will only have to provide psychiatric cover for a minimum of 40 days, compared to 180 days for general medical care.

In addition, they will only be obliged to provide 40 days cover over a person's lifetime for alcoholism and other addictions.

These measures will only reinforce the stigma attached to mental illness by treating it less seriously than physical illness. The whole thing makes a mockery of the White Paper on mental health recently published by the government.

The Paper aims to make committal into psychiatric hospitals more difficult. It will no longer be possible to detain people against their will because they are neglected or cruelly treated.

But the White Paper fails to offer any real measures to tackle the problem of mental illness in society. It is becoming more difficult to get psychiatric treatment, but the White Paper makes no mention of providing more resources to ensure decent care for those who need it.

But after all the government is part of the problem. Their attacks on jobs and living standards lead to unemployment, bad housing and poverty which are the real causes of high levels of mental illness.

Poverty in Cork

A SURVEY by government sponsored GAMMA Ltd. has revealed growing levels of poverty in Cork.

Forty percent of people in the city are suffering from severe economic deprivation.

In some districts, such as Churchfield, unemployment is running at 41 per cent.

One in five families are of lone parents. Three quarters of the council accommodation in Knocknaheeny is rented.

That figure compares only with Dublin's Ballymun and Ballyfermot.

However, not everyone is suffering equally.

The survey also showed that 25 per cent of the districts in Cork could be considered affluent.

what we think

One year after IRA ceasefire:

A process that won't bring real peace

WHEN THE IRA announced its ceasefire a year ago, it ushered in a mood of both celebration and confidence.

Today, peace still means a lot for working class people.

The housing estates of Belfast and Derry bore the brunt of the 25 year conflict—while the wealthy on North Antrim's 'Gold Coast' lived a life of calm and tranquillity.

But the confidence in the peace process has now started to fade. The recent marching season has shown that the ugly face of sectarianism has not changed.

Orange marches are still allowed fantastic detours to take in Catholic areas.

And the RUC take great pleasure from protecting them.

In an atmosphere of growing poverty and frustration, hundreds of people have become involved in Catholic versus Protestant fights with neighbours being pushed out of areas and places of worship attacked.

The main responsibility lies with the Tory government of John Major. They have not used the opportunity of the ceasefire to tackle any of the underlying issues.

On the anniversary of the ceasefire Patrick Mayhew could only announce a return to a 50% remission for prisoners—a measure that existed at the height of the armed conflict up to 1988.

The republicans argue that peace

in the North will now only be saved if 'nationalist Ireland' and the US President Bill Clinton work together to drag the Tories into organising all-party talks.

Desperate

So desperate are the republicans to cement their pan-nationalist alliance that they even invited the leading FF politician, Mary O'Rourke to the re-launch of their paper, *An*

Pobhlacht.

But it is nonsense. How could Bill Clinton who presides over a racist police force which harasses black people have any interest in removing sectarianism?

If all that Protestant workers see in the South was a rabid nationalist alliance led by Fianna Failers, they would be pushed even further into the arms of the Paisleyites.

The thousands of Southern workers and students who have taken on

Fianna Fail and the Bishops in recent years offer the only real hope of unity on this island.

A year after the ceasefire, it is becoming clear that real peace will not be delivered from on high by right wing politicians.

Struggles

It has to be forged in the common struggles of working people from below.

Here the Irish Congress of Trade Unions has a vital role to play.

At this year's conference they passed a resolution calling for the release of political prisoners.

They are also on record as supporting civil liberties.

At a time when there is growing worries about the long term prospects for peace, the ICTU should be calling a massive demonstration to oppose sectarianism and the continuing repression in the North.

Divorce: Take on the bishops

SHOCK, Horror. "Divorced men are three times more likely to have car accidents". This is one of the outlandish claims made by the Bishop of Cashel, Dr Clifford.

He went on to argue that divorcees are more likely to commit suicide, smoke, suffer depression and have children who leave school early.

In fact think of any social ill, and divorce is to blame.

It is like claiming that people who ride bicycles are likely to eat sweets, have divorces, and pick their noses.

Bishop Commiskey took up another bizarre line of argument.

Unless some Dáil politicians start speaking out for the bigots, armed right wing style militias could be formed in parts of Ireland.

Blackmail

In any other situation, the leaned Bishop might find himself up on a charge of blackmail.

This is just a taste of things to come.

The Bishops and their supporters in fringe right wing groups will try every lie and piece of blackmail to stop divorce in this coun-

try. They have the cheek to denounce the state for spending a small amount of money on an information campaign on the issue.

But every Sunday they get a free platform to promote their own political views dressed up as 'homilies'—while the collection plates rattle away.

Of course, it is by no means automatic that the divorce referendum will be passed.

The Bishops will try to repeat the experience of 1987 by turning the bitterness against the government into a No vote.

What is needed is a clear open campaign that stands up for peo-

ple's right to decide what they want to do with their own relationships.

Concern

That campaign should be independent of this rotten government.

Where they try to hide behind mealy mouthed apologies and treat divorce as if it was an act of shame, socialists will stand up firmly for divorce as a democratic right.

And we will take the argument to the Bishops by pointing to the Casey and Smyth cases to show how little concern they have about children's rights.

Water charges:

Stop the disconnections

PEOPLE around the country are currently receiving letters warning of court action if they don't pay their water charges.

In Ballinteer in South Dublin a 72 year old widow was the first to get one of these warnings.

The councils hope to break the non-payment campaign by picking off individuals, scaring them

into paying up and breaking the confidence of other non-payers.

We should stand firm and make sure that they don't succeed.

Thousands of people have not paid. In South Dublin and Fingal for example there is a fifty per cent non-payment rate.

In Cork city only 14 per cent of local authority tenants have paid—and large numbers have only paid small amounts of their

bills.

Legal advice and representation is available from anti-water charges campaigns all around the country.

However, huge protests and demonstrations are the key to defeating the charges.

This is a very sensitive issue for Democratic Left and Labour and we should show them our anger at their betrayals.

Democratic Left promised to abolish the charges

yet they will now be responsible for dragging people before the courts to get court orders to disconnect their water supply.

Dick Spring as Minister for the Environment in 1983 was responsible for the introduction of the law that allowed local authorities for the first time to charge for services provided.

In July Labour and Democratic Left did a U-turn in South Dublin County Council and

pledged to support water charges in return for gaining control of the council.

We need to let the government and the council know loud and clear that we are not having this.

Any appearance in court by a non-payer should be accompanied by big demonstrations.

Protest

Already the Cork anti-water charges committee organised a protest outside

the courthouse in Washington St to defend non-payers whose cases were being heard.

Council meetings should become a focus for protest especially when they are meeting to set the charge for next year.

If disconnections are ordered by the court we should follow the great examples in Waterford in recent years when the local community mobilised to prevent scabs from switching off the supply.

Sex education works—official

KIDS WHO receive thorough sex education in school will use contraception properly, have fewer sexual partners and will start having sex later on in their teens.

These results, from a new study in the *British Medical Journal*, prove that educating kids is one of the best ways of preventing unwanted teenage pregnancies as well as the risk of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

The Exeter study, and 33 others conducted in America, shows that kids who get sex education do not have sex earlier or more often, contrary to what the church wants us to believe.

But lessons have to be properly funded to get the message across.

Classes in Exeter involved teachers, doctors, and sixth-formers who taught junior pupils between 13 and 15 years. The sixth-formers had received 25 hours' training before teaching the younger pupils.

The programme cost £45 per pupil. It paid off: youngsters on the 30-hour course were less than half (45 per cent) as likely to have early sex.

When they did sleep with someone they knew far more about contraception and sex in general than other local kids.

But the Irish government continues to bend the knee to the bishops by stalling on the issue of sex education.

Chirac isolated over French bomb tests

FRANCE's plans to resume nuclear tests can be stopped. The protests and trade union bans in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific are having an effect.

The French government withdrew its ambassador from Australia.

It cited union bans on mail to French consulates, boycotts on French ships and protests at the French embassy as reasons for its decision.

Now the Belgian port of Ghent has cancelled the planned visit of a French naval vessel in protest at the tests.

Even in France itself the influential newspaper *Le Monde* has called on

President Chirac to back down on the tests saying that the isolation of France was too high a price to pay.

Polled

Sixty per cent of people polled in France oppose the tests.

There have been further demonstrations in Tahiti, one of the islands

**STOP NUCLEAR TESTING
Demonstration
Tuesday 5th September
6.30pm, French Embassy,
35 Ailsbury Road, Dublin
Called by Campaign Against Nuclear testing**

most likely to be affected if the bombs are exploded.

They know that French governments have lied in

the past about the dangers involved.

In 1965 President de Gaulle sent troops to Muraroa in the South Pa-

cific to conduct the first tests.

The governments of Polynesia were opposed to them.

De Gaulle assured them "not one particle of radioactivity will reach an inhabited island".

Two years later the French stopped printing health statistics for the islanders. Eyewitnesses say the number of cancers has gone up six or seven times.

Huge cracks have appeared in the atoll, which sinks three quarters of an inch with each test. In 1981 a storm carried ra-



dio-active waste off the island and into the South Pacific.

Union action and demonstrations around the world can increase the unpopularity of the tests inside France itself and force Chirac to back down.

That will be a blow to other nuclear powers like Britain and the US who are waiting in the wings to test their own deadly weapons.

inside the system

Things they say

★ "People think that just because you are a millionaire you stop having money worries, but that is not true. You still have to worry about where the next Rolex is coming from."

Mel Eddison, millionaire, after winning another £1 million in the British lottery last month.

★ "The reality is stark, the market system is there and it works after a fashion ... There is no acceptable alternative ... Accepting all this means that one cannot logically be anti-business, anti-profits, anti-private enterprise in general or on grounds of principle."

Dick Spring during the 'Which Way is Left?' [indeed!] talk at Tom Johnson Summer School

Houses sold for care

ELDERLY PEOPLE in the North are forced to sell their houses to pay for nursing home care. Every year more than 1,000 homes are put on the market because the Tories' Social Security rules say assets of more than £8,000 have to be sacrificed to pay the bills. This also goes for savings which can be reduced to nothing to pay the £300 a week costs of nursing home care.

The Tories also claim the right to investigate transactions going back over a period of years to see if a patient has sold their house or passed it on to sons or daughters. If they find that a house was passed on to avoid payment the government can recover the money from the patient.

Back to nature



Joseph McCarroll

ONE OF the leaders of the anti-divorce campaign, Joseph McCarroll of Family Solidarity, aired some of his views in the papers this month.

The man who wants to dictate to estranged couples that they shall never divorce has been separated from his wife for five years. He says that people be-

come irresponsible through too much individual freedom in modern society - tell that to people who try to feed their family on about £100 a week!

Vicious

Worse, he also launches into some of the most vicious attacks against gays that have been printed recently: "Homosexuality is

a severe psychosexual disorder.

"[Gays] want parity of esteem. They want their lifestyles accepted as morally and socially acceptable. I think that's going too far," he says.

"There are therapies available. Eventually reality will impose itself on people and they will see that this is not a natural way of living."

Workers under more stress—official

SCIENTISTS at a conference in Copenhagen reported that the latest studies show stress is more of a problem for workers than it is for their bosses.

Dr Tage Kristiansen said: "The stereotype of stress is the busi-

nessman with a suitcase and mobile phone having lots of meetings and being under time pressure.

But research shows that is not correct. Job stress and heart

disease has the largest effect on the lower social strata."

Attack

The scientists said that executives had

more control over their time than workers and so were at less risk of heart attacks.

Workers on shifts are twice as likely to have heart attacks than those on normal hours.

Pollution health scare in Shannon

NEW TESTS on animals which died near the Aughinish alumina plant have shown extremely high levels of aluminium.

One of the animals had 790 parts per million (ppm) in its bones - aluminium is seen as toxic from as little as 14 to 70 ppm.

The metal has been linked with mental illness

in humans. Numerous foals and calves without eyes have already been born in the Shannon region around the plant.

But so far no study has been started to see what

effects it could have on local people.

'Scrubbers'

The factories near Askeaton, where the tests were taken, produce gases which make it easier for aluminium to enter tissue and bones.

ESB Moneypoint, ESB

Tarbert and the Aughinish alumina plant all release SO₂ and NO_x.

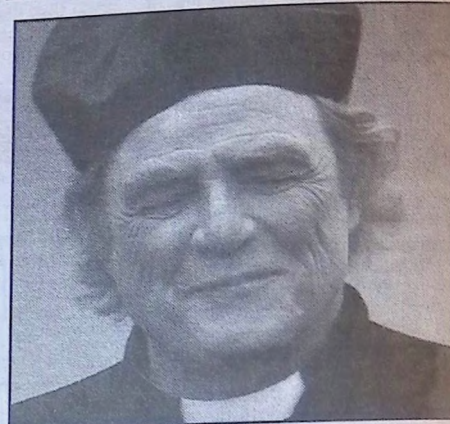
Scientists say the ESB could install 'scrubbers' to reduce emissions and use a different type of fuel.

However, this would cost the ESB around £200 million and, as usual, profit comes first.

behind the headlines

Films and the feel-good factor

by EAMONN McCANN



Brando: Ballycotton fiasco

SOME OF the reaction last month to the collapse of the Marlon Brando movie "Divine Rapture", which was being filmed in Ballycotton, Co. Cork, tells us a great deal about the dream-world in which many "cultural" commentators live and where they would dearly like the rest of us to join them.

The saga of the producers' search for financial backing as shooting was stopped, re-started and then stopped again, was reported in fascinating detail as media folk metaphorically held their breath and hoped against hope that all would be well.

Gibson and Michael D. were reciting poetry to one another and there were two Rolling Stones and a thin model in Mulligans the other week drinking pints to beat the band.

Sure it's a grand wee country every time.

Of course the film industry is an important one and the positive aspects of film-making in Ireland shouldn't be dismissed. The commercial life of particular areas can be temporarily boosted. Hotel and catering workers can benefit.

Short-term jobs can be created for a relatively small number of talented people who might otherwise find no outlet for their creativity. It goes without saying all this is positive.

But the hype about made-in-Ireland movies has been out of all proportion to these actual benefits and can accurately be seen as an artificial effort to generalise a "feel-good factor" about life in Ireland which has very little to do with how hundreds of thousands of Irish people experience life in the real world.

When we go to the movies we suspend our disbelief and enter into a fantasy world.

But there is an air of unreality too about the movie business itself, with its stars and assorted celebrities depicted as living out a fantasy life which we are invited to gape at in awe and dream of emulating. In this sense, the business itself is a diversion.

And that's how it's been used here in recent years.

If the departure of Brando—with not another word about that Irish passport—helps dispel the reverie woven by Michael D. and his starchy chums, something of value will have been retrieved from the wreckage of Ballycotton's brief rapture.

letters

The price of a life

THE whole system of justice is something that workers have no control over. Judges, etc, are appointed by our rulers and this is always reflected in their decisions over our lives.

Take the case of Evelyn Baird and Michael Morrison, whose children were killed in the Shankill Road bombing. They have been awarded £30,000 by the agreement of the solicitors and the Northern Ireland Of-

fice. Contrast this with the treatment of the relatives of the RUC Chief Superintendents and secret police who were killed in the helicopter crash on the Mull of Kintyre in late 1994.

The government has waived its own limit of £100,000 for each of the victims. This is called 'judicial equity'—how this class ridden society values its workers' lives.

JOE MCCARROLL, ENNISKILLEN

De Rossa snubs Press workers

GOOD TO see the letter from the Irish Press workers in the last issue of Socialist Worker.

I am a member of the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) and I'd like to say how sick the behaviour of so-called leftwingers in the coalition has made me and, I think, many other journalists.

Democratic Left leader Proinsias de Rossa, Minister of Social Welfare don't forget, wrote to the Irish Times explaining that the Press journalists could not possibly be



De Rossa: four letter words

paid the dole because they were "in dispute" with the Press group.

But he didn't leave it

there.

Outside his alternative Bastille Day party at the posh Buswells Hotel he told one of the Press journalists to go and sell the strike paper, the XPress, elsewhere.

To "fuck off" as an eyewitness put it.

The reason? The XPress seller, Sean Purcell, was shouting "A free lunch but no dole!"

Obviously didn't go down well with the Bastille Day 'revolutionaries' inside.

JENNY, DUBLIN

IRAQ

Plot about Saddam hides West's aims

REVELATIONS were splashed across the papers last month about the secret plans of Saddam Hussein in Iraq.

But the supposed "plans" don't stand up to scrutiny.

General Hussein Kamel, the head of Iraq's weapons procurement programme, defected to Jordan with his brother.

He claims Saddam Hussein planned to invade Kuwait and Saudi Arabia this month.

But, he says, the attack was abandoned because of the defections.

Kamel also told US intelligence services that Iraq was three months away from exploding a nuclear weapon when it launched the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The story, immediately leaked to the world's press, is an echo of fanciful CIA briefings on defectors at the height of the Cold War with Russia.

Now the US government is using the defectors' "revelations" to justify economic sanctions against Iraq and the increased US military presence in the Middle East.

There are simple questions the press could have asked about Kamel's revelations.

Atom

Why, for example, did the Iraqi leadership not wait just three months, until it had an atom bomb, before invading Kuwait?

It is unlikely the US would have launched the Gulf War if Iraq could threaten to turn the Middle East, with its massive oil reserves, into a radioactive wasteland.

Cut through the propaganda and there are two horrors in Iraq today.

The first is the tyranny of Saddam Hussein's regime.

The second is the appalling toll on ordinary Iraqis caused by five years of economic blockade.

Western politicians who now denounce the brutality of the Iraqi regime were silent in the 1980s when Saddam Hussein launched a war against the three million Kurds in Iraq.

They were silent when Iraqi planes used poison gas against helpless villages, preferring to sell Iraq billions of pounds worth of arms.

These same politicians are silent today as ordinary Iraqis sink into starvation.

Chicken

Iraq was devastated by bombing during the Gulf War and the sanctions are aimed at keeping it that way.

In 1993 the United Nations warned of "pre-famine" conditions in Iraq. Last year the meagre food ration was cut in half.

Now it stands at just one kilogram of rice and six kilograms of bread a month. A chicken can cost a month's wages.

Malnutrition afflicts half the children admitted to hospital in the capital, Baghdad. Officially, sanctions are aimed at undermining Saddam Hussein. But aid agencies are also being hampered in their work.

In 1994, for example, UNICEF received \$70 million for work in Iraq. This year it has been halved.

And none of the UN's resolutions on Iraq mention ending the repression of the Iraqi people as a precondition for lifting sanctions. None try to limit Iraq's stocks of conventional weapons.

The US and British governments know the overwhelming majority of Iraqis desperately want the overthrow of Saddam's regime, but Western governments also fear revolt inside

LONDON



The Welling demonstration—a marvellous show of unity. Marchers faced unprovoked assault by riot police (right)



Jail threat to 14 anti-nazis

Iraq.

After the Gulf War a senior US diplomat admitted, "Our policy is to get rid of Saddam Hussein, not his regime."

The real aim of the Western powers is to keep the option of using Iraq as a counterweight to Iran.

That means keeping the regime intact, but weakened.

PEOPLE WHO demonstrated against racism and Nazi violence are to be punished by the courts.

They are being criminalised for demonstrating against the headquarters of the Nazi British National Party in Welling, south east London, nearly two years ago.

The Welling defendants' trial has taken place in virtual secrecy, under the weight of massive reporting restrictions.

Now 14 people, many with families and children, are facing jail.

They have been found guilty of rioting and could get up to ten years in prison when sentenced next month.

Their 'crime' is to have taken part in a fantastic show of unity in the face

of Nazi attempts to divide black and white.

Some 60,000 marched on the Welling demonstration.

They were demanding the closure of the headquarters of the BNP and an end to its campaign of racist terror.

Murder

It came after the murder of three young black men within miles of the BNP HQ-Rolan Adams, Rohit Duggal and Stephen Lawrence.

It was also a month after the BNP won its first council seat when Derek Beackon was elected on the Isle of Dogs in east London's Tower Hamlets.

It was a marvellous demonstration, of black and white unity, of families with their kids and

trade unionists with their banners.

There was no violent intent, just the atmosphere of a determined carnival.

But instead of being allowed to march peacefully the demonstrators were charged repeatedly by riot and mounted police.

One teacher told *Socialist Worker*, at the time, "I've never been so frightened. We were squashed against a wall. There was nowhere to go, and the police just charged with truncheons."

The police truncheoned the chief steward of the march as she appealed for calm.

The police say it was a riot.

But there was no damage to people's houses. No looting, just thousands of terrified people.

What is the supposed crime of those now facing imprisonment?

They threw bricks. They threw bricks at the police from a wall that collapsed as terrified protesters tried to flee the police charges.

They were not allowed over the wall because riot police on the other side beat and punched them back.

The video footage shows clearly that bricks were ONLY thrown when the police charged. When the police charges stopped, no bricks were thrown.

The days that followed saw a massive media witch hunt against the protesters.

The police were portrayed as victims. But only 19 police officers were hospitalised.

And in the hospital where they were taken there were 40 demonstrators beaten by truncheons.

South Korean socialists excluded from amnesty

THE SOUTH Korean government has refused to release Choi Il-bung and other socialists from prison despite granting a general amnesty on 11 August.

The amnesty saw 3,169 prisoners released — including generals who had carried out massacres and politicians and businessmen found guilty of taking bribes.

By contrast, Choi Il-bung is serving 18 months for translating

Bookmarks books and attending a May Day rally.

Write to protest to President Kim Young Sam (Blue House, 1 Sejongro Jung-Gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea). Postcards are available in Korean and English from: Committee to Defend South Korean Socialists (PO Box 1648, Dublin 8).

Write to Choi Il-bung, Prison No 3288, PO Box 101, Anyang Kyungkido, Republic of Korea 430-080.

CHILD LABOUR: Not just a 'Third World' issue

by ROISIN CRONIN

THE MURDER last April of Iqbal Masih, a child carpet weaver who had been a prominent campaigner against child labour, brought about renewed interest in the West in the issue of child labour.

In India alone there are estimated to be about 17 million children working. In Africa, children make up around 20 per cent of the total workforce.

Children tend to be employed in manufacturing industry, often in sweatshops, or in services such as domestic labour.

The conditions in which children have to work are appalling and they can give rise to serious health problems, such as bone lesions and postural deformity as a result of being doubled up in carpet factories and lifting heavy weights.

Often children have to operate dangerous machinery.

Many of the children who work are bonded labourers.

This means that their labour has been pledged in return for loans from the employer.

Workers can often remain bonded for life as the interest on the loan is so high.

If workers try to escape from their employers they are usually brought back and kept in cages or in chains.

In many cases this is done with the full knowledge and collusion of government labour inspectors.

Human Rights Watch has reported that in Pakistan workers who have protested against ill-treatment by their employers have been imprisoned on false charges.

Children provide their bosses with a cheap supply of labour so that they can maximise their profits.

One factory owner said "Labour is cheap in Bangladesh and that is how we can compete".

Factory owners have strongly resisted any attempts to ban child labour.

Protection

At present what protection there is for children is blatantly ignored. So how do we end this exploitation of children?

Some campaigners have called for an international boycott of all goods produced by child labour.

In 1993 a bill introduced into the US Senate attempted to ban any imports manufactured by children under the age of 15.

Factory owners responded by throwing 40,000 children onto the streets, plunging children and their families into further poverty.

A boycott as a solution ignores the fact that it is poverty that forces children into these sweatshops.

It does nothing to tackle the conditions which give rise to the problem of child labour in the first place.



Iqbal Masih, murdered by the carpet mafia

But the focus on boycotting imports is based on the idea that child labour is something unique to the Third World.

In the minds of right-wing politicians this argument can take on a racist form—only 'backward' peoples send their children out to work while we in the West are 'civilised'.

But child labour is also to be found in 'developed' countries. Spain for example is estimated to have 1.5 million children working, in particular in the shoe industry.

In Italy the demand for child labour has been growing in recent years in the leather industry as bosses try to cut costs even further.

Pressure

In the US thousands of migrant children work in agriculture.

The reason the problem has been more widespread in the Third World is because the pressure of competition leads employers there to impose barbaric conditions.

Child labour is rooted in capitalism. Indeed one of the most enduring images of Britain's industrial revolution in the 1800s is of children toiling in the factories.

As long as we live under a system that is run in the interests of a minority and dominated by the ruthless pursuit of profit, exploitation will continue.

Workers' action can bring an end to child labour.

Higher wages for adult workers will undercut the need for children to supplement a family's income.

In some countries child labourers have organised themselves into groups like the Bonded Labour Liberation Front.

By linking with the wider working class movement they can strengthen their fight.

It is only when workers run a society based on human need that we can be sure that abuses like child labour will never happen again.

Why they cut our pe

by JENNY WILLIAMS

EUROPE's bosses are worried that workers are living longer than in previous generations. They are concerned that the cost of pensions and health care will be much higher in the years ahead than it was previously.

Right across Europe governments and bosses are beginning to attack the living standards of the elderly.

In Britain the Tories have raised the retirement age for women from 60 to 65 in order to save on pension costs. They are attacking public sector workers' pensions. Now anyone under the age of 35 will get half the retirement income when they reach 65 that they would get today.

In Italy, the last Berlusconi-led government tried to slash state benefits for the elderly as well as attempting to change the law which gave people the right to retire after 35 years work (regardless of age).

A series of strikes and a march by over 1.5 million pensioners and workers in Rome forced him to retreat and contributed to the fall of his government.

In France the government is also talking of raising the retirement age and increasing workers' contributions to their pension schemes.

What the bosses are saying is that the number of old age pensioners will increase dramatically faster in the years ahead than the number of people at work.

In Ireland, Proinsias de Rossa, the Minister for Social Welfare,

Rossa about squeezing money out of the bosses for our pensions.

Ticking Over

Not a word about raising corporation tax back to its old level of 40 per cent and using the money for pensions for the workers who keep those firms ticking over every day.

In reality the whole debate about our ageing population shows the cruelty of capitalism. In any decent society, longevity would be celebrated and the aged treated with respect and dignity.

There is no shortage of wealth to insure a good standard of living for the elderly and young alike.

But under capitalism those who can no longer make a profit for the ruling class are considered a burden on society.



How to fight: Teachers marched for early retire

Living on a shoestring

IRISH old age pensions are amongst the lowest in Europe.

The maximum non-contributory pension is a miserly £62.50 per week. People who may have worked all their lives can qualify for a contributory pension. The maximum they can receive is the princely sum of £72.80.

A 1993 survey published by the National Council for the Elderly showed that 44.1 per cent of urban single pensioners had difficulties making ends meet on their income. Almost three in four, or 73.8 per cent, lived on less than £100 a week.

Having worked and generated wealth throughout their lives most workers find themselves rewarded by having to live their last years on a shoestring.



De Rossa: Silent

increased pensioners' pay by a pathetic £1.80 in this year's budget. He has issued dire warnings that the number of pensioners will increase by 67 per cent by the year 2035. The ratio of workers to pensioners will fall from 5 to 1 today to 3 to 1 in 2035.

Last month accountants Craig Gardner Price Waterhouse suggested "raising taxes to offset any shortfall in pension funding, increase contributions, increase retirement age, or reduce benefits." In other words, either we pay more in taxes or pensions premiums, or we work longer, or we get smaller pensions.

There was not a peep from de

Raiding

OVER 600,000 Irish workers are in private pension schemes. Workers pay a portion of their wages (usually 2 to 5 per cent) into pension funds in the hope that they can retire to a reasonable quality of life.

Many will find their pensions wholly inadequate.

For example, a CIE worker who is due to retire this year could have been paying into his pension fund for over 45 years but will receive a weekly pension of just over £40.

Irish pension funds are valued at over £14 billion.

Controlled

This vast wealth is controlled by insurance and banking firms who use it to speculate on the Irish and international financial markets.

Ordinary workers have absolutely no control over where their money is invested.

Instead it is used as an enormous slush fund to lubricate the capitalist system.

Over £4 billion is invested in Irish gilts

Over £3 billion goes into

PRINC

SOME people do have to worry about poverty in their old age. Former Taoiseach and CIE worker like Charles Haughey, Lynch and Garret Fitzgerald receive state pensions of £43,000 per year.

HAZAI

IN NORTHERN Ireland, weekly basic state pension is £58.85 for a single person, £94.10 for a couple, according to Belfast-based campaign group Age Concern. In 1992, a survey found the average pensioner holds income (i.e. money one or more persons to on) in Northern Ireland £78.39. Every winter pensioners

Irish equities
 ■ £664 million is used speculate in Irish property de
 ■ £751 million is investec other Irish companies

They want to pensions



marched for early retirement rights this year.

ing our funds

PRINCELY SUMS

SOME people don't have to worry about poverty in their old age. Former Taoisigh and OAPs like Charles Haughey, Jack Lynch and Garret Fitzgerald all receive state pensions of over £43,000 per year.

Former ministers pick up a state pension of over £30,000 per year. Other bosses who can look forward to their retirement include: Howard Kilroy of Smurfit's, retiring at 60 on a pension of £330,000 a year.

David Dilger of Greencore will be getting over £100,000 a year when he retires. Brian Wilson of AIB will get a £150,000 a year pension. Matt Russell, the civil servant who left his job unceremoniously over his involvement with the Brendan Smyth affair, can look forward to a humble £34,000 per year, increasing by £3,000 per annum.

HAZARDS OF OLD AGE

IN NORTHERN Ireland, the weekly basic state pension is £58.85 for a single person and £94.10 for a couple, according to Belfast-based campaign group Age Concern. In 1992, a survey found that the average pensioner household income (i.e. money for one or more persons to live on) in Northern Ireland was £78.39. Every winter pensioners die

of heart disease, pneumonia, asthma, and strokes brought on by the cold. Hypothermia, when your body temperature falls dangerously low, is another cause of death.

Starvation

All these deaths happen because people are paid starvation pensions. Fuel is more expensive in

the North than in parts of England, Wales or Scotland.

Before the Tories slammed VAT on fuel, people would have spent 50 per cent or £3.50 more per week on fuel than the national average.

With 17.5 per cent VAT added on, the average Northern Irish fuel bill will increase by £150 a year. Tory pensions and VAT on fuel are a lethal combination.

Essentially, insurance companies gamble with workers' money.

If investments make losses, workers' pensions suffer.

The people who really benefit are the bankers who control the vast funds, as well as the heads of those firms who receive the money as investments in their companies.

Demanding a better deal

WORKERS are beginning to demand a better deal in pensions and earlier retirement.

Over 5,000 manual health workers, such as hospital porters and catering staff, have threatened strike action through SIPTU, their union. Their pensions are lower than those of other health workers, even though they pay higher contributions.

Earlier this year thousands of teachers held a one-day strike and marched in Dublin in their campaign for early retirement.

In recent years, building workers have been campaigning against C45s, the system where they are classified as self-employed and as such have no social insurance or pension rights.

One of the Dunnes strikers' demands was for a comprehensive pension scheme that would cover all workers. Most part-time and temporary workers are denied any access to a company-funded pension scheme.

These examples show how workers can organise to win the basic right to retire with dignity.

Workers are now questioning why they should toil throughout their lives until they reach 65 years of age, and then face their remaining years on paltry pensions.

GONE BUST

AS COMPANIES go bust, workers can lose their workplace pension overnight. In the case of the *Irish Press*, the bosses not only stopped payments but the pension schemes might simply be wound up without paying out.

Irish Press management stopped paying into its workers' pension funds in June and July.

The managers of one fund containing 470 workers' money are now demanding £273,408 from *Press* owners Eamonn de Valera and Vincent Jennings.

The second fund seeks £550,000, and the *Irish Print Union*, who runs the third fund, says it is owed £100,000.

what do socialists say?

Revolution: we can beat the pigs

A NEW edition of George Orwell's *Animal Farm* came out recently. It marks the fiftieth anniversary of its first publication.

It tells the story of what happens when the animals of Manor Farm overthrow their cruel master, Farmer Jones, and take over the farm themselves.

Animal Farm is of particular interest to socialists because it is not just a tale about animals but a satire based on the Russian Revolution.

Just as in Russia the ideals of the workers' revolution for equality and freedom gave way to the rise of Stalin's dictatorship and a new ruling class, so in Orwell's novel the animals' revolution is corrupted.

The pigs and their leader, Napoleon, end up just as bad as the humans they replaced.

Animal Farm has been extraordinarily popular, running through more than 50 editions, and has been a favourite of those who set exams in English literature.

There have been two reasons for this. First it is beautifully written and easy to read.

Second it is generally seen as a powerful presentation of one of the main arguments against socialist revolution, namely that all revolutions lead to tyranny.

Whether or not Orwell intended this is open to debate, but this is certainly the usual interpretation.

Orwell depicts the animals' revolution as going wrong from the start. The basic problem is that the pigs, who play the role of political leaders, are much more intelligent than the rest of the animals.

From day one the pigs take advantage of the gullibility and ignorance of the other animals to acquire privileges for themselves.

At first the privileges are small, but they steadily increase. At the same time Napoleon trains the farm

puppies into fighting dogs (the KGB).

He uses them to drive out or kill any pigs or other animals who challenge his rule.

Before long Napoleon and his cronies have moved back into Jones's farmhouse, are wearing clothes, carry whips like Jones did and are doing crooked deals with the other farmers like Jones did.

Meanwhile the ordinary animals, above all Boxer the shire horse, are being worked harder and harder for less and less.

Eventually, when Boxer's health is broken by his labours, Napoleon sells him off to the slaughter house.

Workers

This, we are told, is what would inevitably happen if workers today ever tried to get rid of the ruling class and take the running of society into their own hands.

Superficially it seems to fit events in Russia. In fact the *Animal Farm* argument is fundamentally flawed.

It accepts without question one of the main myths of capitalist society, namely that class divisions are based on inborn differences in intelligence.

It is simply not true that the ruling class consists of people who are inherently superior or that the working class consists of people who are naturally stupid.

Of course the conditions of life of working people under capitalism — exploitation, poverty, oppression etc — undermine their confidence. But in making a revolution workers shake off this lack of confidence.

Having gone through the process of revolution there is no reason to suppose that workers will be unable to man-

age their workplaces, run their towns or control the state.

They are even less likely to sit back passively while a new class of "pigs" deprives them of all they have gained.

Yet this is how Orwell depicts things in *Animal Farm*.

This also distorts what happened in Russia.

The rise of Stalin and the bureaucracy did not take place because the workers who made the revolution were too passive or stupid to see what was happening.

It occurred because the workers of 1917, who had reached incredible levels of activity and political consciousness, were physically and economically destroyed in the terrible civil war of the years from 1918 to 1921.

This war was imposed on Russia by the military intervention of all the main capitalist powers. It would have been prevented if the revolution had spread to other countries as Lenin and Trotsky hoped.

In the event this shattering of the working class created a power vacuum which the Stalinists emerged to fill.

There is no reason why the Russian experience should be repeated today.

If workers took power today they would have far greater economic resources and political power than the Russian workers had.

Moreover, the greater international integration of capitalism and improved communications would make it much easier to spread the revolution.

Stalinism would not rise again.

Animal Farm is still worth reading. It has good points I have not had space to mention.

But it should be read with a critical eye, and the way it presents the workers as stupid should be rejected

by JOHN MOLYNEUX

OUT NOW!
The Irish Famine
by Vasco Purser

£1 plus 40p p+p from: Bookmarks, PO Box 1648, Dublin 8



Irish equities
£664 million is used to speculate in Irish property deals
£751 million is invested in other Irish companies

Superpowers gear up for new arms race

A WELL publicised superpower summit in December 1989 at Malta saw George Bush emerge to speak of a New World Order in which "the 1990's will usher in an unprecedented period of world peace and democracy."

A month later the US invaded the tiny country of Panama leaving 8,000 dead. The following year US pilots gloated that they "hit the jackpot" as they unleashed an orgy of destruction on the Iraqi army. Over 200,000 retreating Iraqi conscripts were killed by a greater explosive power than was used in the whole of the Second World War.

The first three years of the "new world order" saw 40 million war refugees across the world, from Tadjikistan to Chechenia, Liberia to Sierra Leone. In Bosnia 170,000 people have died since 1992.

Far from being more peaceful the 1990s is proving to be a decade of wars and of a continued arms race. According to the UN report on human resources \$815bn was spent on arms in 1994. Coincidentally that figure is equal to the combined income of half the world's population.

Why does the arms race continue?

It is easy to despair and believe that there must be something innately warlike about human nature. Bitter ethnic rivalry seems to be an inevitable part of our history.

But as one refugee from the recent Croatian attack on Krajina said on BBC radio, "if the leaders could get lost the people would make peace in a day."

It is the small elite at the top of society who are the real warmongers and their reason for fighting can be summed up in one word: "capitalism".

Capitalism is a ruthlessly competitive system that has always been associated with violence. Even as factory production established itself in Britain and parts of Europe, it was accompanied by war.

Industry

The massive advantages the capitalist class gained from modern industry were used to establish empires in order to loot the world's wealth.

The victory of the capitalist class in the English Revolution of 1642 was soon followed by the conquest of Ireland. Over the next two centuries terrible wars were fought against the indigenous populations of America, Africa the Middle East and Asia.

Warfare became even more horrific this century as the different empires ran into each other. By 1914, 84 per cent of the world was a colony of a European power or America.

With the onset of recession and economic difficulties, the major powers were inevitably going to clash with one another over who controlled the world's resources.

At first rival states tried to compete using tariff barriers and price control. But war is the most decisive form of competition.

The pressure to outstrip their rivals inevitably led to an arms race and, at times of severe crisis, to a world war.

Throughout this century the stockpile of weapons has grown and become more dangerous.

A world at war

by
**CONOR
KOSTICK**



A US marine in Somalia. Far from keeping the peace, the US forces killed hundreds of civilians

The nuclear arms at the disposal of Jacques Chirac for example, are each a thousand times more destructive than the Hiroshima bomb.

Because the world economy is very weak, many countries are suffering extreme economic

hardship. As a consequence nationalist warmongers seem to offer answers both to businesses on the verge of collapse and a population looking for an alternative to their suffering.

The instability at the centre of many "middle sized" econo-

mies has led to their descent into barbarism.

Collapse

The collapse of Yugoslavia is but the most visible example. Brutal wars are also taking place

in sub-Saharan Africa and the Southern parts of the former USSR.

Inevitably these wars impact on the policies of the major powers.

Instability in Iraq led to Saddam gambling on the inva-

sion of Kuwait, stirring the US to lead the way in the Gulf War. The US is increasing its involvement in Bosnia, helping organise the recent Croatia offensive.

The more powerful states are casting nervous eyes at the growing chaos in the world, and at one another.

There is a clash of business interests between them that remains at the heart of world capitalism.

The planned French nuclear tests are one result of this new arms race. The US, Britain Russia and France are trying to develop "tactical" nuclear missiles.

That is, bombs whose effect could be limited to the field of a battle. This raises the appalling prospect of nuclear weapons being used in the future.

Treaties

This is why the protestations of Bill Clinton that he wants a world wide ban on nuclear testing cannot be taken at face value.

Time and again the superpowers have signed treaties to restrict the arms race. And every such treaty has proven itself worthless.

The fact that the Generals in the Pentagon want to resume nuclear testing is a warning that we cannot expect the politicians of the major states to hold back the arms race.

There is only one force that can put a stop to this madness and waste.

Workers the world over are increasingly aware of the environmental and human damage of the arms race.

Whether in Australia, China, Japan, France or the US, we all have an interest in stopping the arms race and spending the money where it is needed: on jobs and welfare.

Workers have never gained from nationalism, and there is nothing more inspiring than seeing displays of solidarity between workers of different countries.

The protests against the French nuclear tests are spreading worldwide and give a good foretaste of what is really needed to end war forever: an international working class movement that takes the wealth and power off the small group of warmongers and creates a socialist world.

Ireland joining arms race

IT IS becoming more and more clear that despite the presence of Labour and Democratic Left ministers, the Irish government wants to end its position of neutrality.

A white paper on foreign policy is due next month but we can predict that it will move Ireland towards military association with Europe's major states.

During the Gulf War, the Irish government allowed US aircraft to refuel at Shannon.

Greenpeace advised the government not to put its name to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty renewed

this year, as the treaty in fact encouraged arms testing before 1996. Dick Spring ignored this advice and signed.

The Oireachtas Committee on Foreign Affairs has passed a resolution opening the way for Irish participation in the new European super-force, the Western European Union (WEU).

Enjoy

We are told that this is needed because Ireland has to play its part in 'keeping the peace' and that we cannot expect to enjoy the 'benefits' of the European Community without

sharing in the responsibility of defence.

But the only people in Ireland to benefit from the EU are capitalists like Larry Goodman who ripped off the beef intervention scheme. At the same time the EU pulps 2.5 million tons of fruit to keep prices high for European workers.

The market system which Spring and De Rossa defend brings starvation and war to millions around the world.

Workers in Ireland have nothing to gain if Ireland joins the WEU. Our interest lies in uniting with workers in other countries who are always the losers when their rulers go to war.

MUSIC

Breaking the cultural barriers

ANYONE WHO thought Moving Hearts was the best band ever will love Midnight Court.

Three Chicago musicians and one traditional fiddler from Co. Clare mix traditional Irish reels and jigs with jazz, blues, ska, reggae and rap beats.

Midnight Court played its first gig at Flaggmount, East Clare, home ground to Martin Hayes on 20th August. Martin is acknowledged to be one of the best traditional fiddlers in Ireland, as is his father P.J. Hayes.

The gig started with Martin playing a traditional set of jigs and reels learnt from his father and grandfather before him.

His fiddling would set the most wooden feet dancing, the dourest face smiling and the hardest heart singing.

When P.J. Hayes joined him for a few tunes, it was nothing short of magic.

Gusto

Teenagers who had come for the rock band danced to the traditional set with as much gusto as if it were M People.

All this set me to thinking about cultural nationalism—a phenomenon which seems to have grown on this island as the aspirations of political nationalism have waned.

If we can't get a united Ireland, they say, let us at least have street names in Irish and Irish speaking schools.

The lie that the root of the Troubles lies in Protestant and Catholic workers having different 'cultural identities' is now accepted by politicians and commentators on all sides.

Each side is accepting the identity of the other, and giving it 'parity of esteem' is seen as the way towards a lasting peace.

Socialists disagree. We are against cultural nationalism because it serves to divide workers and to encourage us to 'identify' as Catholics or Protestants, rather than workers with common interests.

It emphasises the differences, rather than the similarities between different sections of the working class.

The reality is that Catholic and Protestant workers have far more in common culturally than they have differences.

We tend to watch the same films, the same TV programmes, wear the same clothes, listen to the same bands.

by GORETTI HORGAN

The average teenagers of both religions are likely to come up with the same list of favourite bands—Blur, Oasis etc. Few, if any, will include their local Fife & Drum or Pipe Band!

Of course socialists are opposed to the oppression of any culture and defend the right of Catholics in the North to Irish speaking schools, to fly the tricolour etc.

But what occurred to me at the Martin Hayes/Midnight Court concert was that not only does cultural nationalism undermine the potential for working class unity, it doesn't contribute to the protection or development of what's best and unique about Irish culture.

I suffered the force-feeding of 'traditional culture' in the South during the 60's and, like many of my generation, I had grown to hate the Irish language, music, dancing etc. Only bands like Planxty and Moving Hearts brought me back towards it.

Martin Hayes and Midnight Court went further than Moving Hearts.

Introduced

They started the evening with a straight traditional set and introduced to a whole new generation music that goes back hundreds of years. And the new generation loved it.

This new love for traditional fiddle music didn't come from any form of cultural nationalism, but from the opposite. It was precisely because Martin Hayes plugged in (literally) to the international music scene that young people came to hear him and so were introduced to the best of traditional Irish music.

It is in internationalism and its rejection of all forms of nationalism that the hope lies for peace on this island and all over the world.

It is in internationalism also that the hope lies for the protection of what is best in culture in every part of the world.

Martin Hayes of East Clare and Seattle, USA knows and shows that. Catch him on tour around Ireland between now and mid September.

PLAY

Secrets of the family

PAUL O'BRIEN reviews a new play by Joe O'Connor

Joe O'Connor's play *Red Roses and Petrol* at the Tivoli Theatre in Dublin is a hard hitting drama on the family.

It is not about domestic violence but it does mirror Roddy Doyle's TV drama *Family* in the way it shows the impact that a distorted home life can have on the parents and children.

The story is simple enough.

The family are all home for the funeral of their father. In the course of the two days a secret from the

past emerges—one that they never spoke about but which affected them all in different ways.

O'Connor is a very powerful storyteller and in the process of the evening we get into the lives and traumas of the mother, daughters and



Joe O'Connor: powerful story teller

son.

But O'Connor also has the ability to draw the audience into the story.

I doubt if there was any-

one there for whom some old wound was not opened and re-examined.

Red Roses and Petrol is old fashioned drama in the best sense of the word. O'Connor has a great comic touch which runs through the whole evening.

He uses comedy in the same way that O'Casey did to break the tension at the point when you feel that you cannot take any more.

The production and set are straightforward.

Tricks

There are no tricks or pretensions in the presentation as you get in so many modern productions where the form seems more important than the content.

Pigsback Theatre Company lets O'Connor's words speak for themselves.

This is a play worth seeing. It is O'Connor's first play and there is no doubt he has a feel for writing for the stage.

There are weaknesses at times. The action is too static, the second half does not sustain the tension and drama of the first.

If you can't get to the Tivoli you can catch up on Joe O'Connor by reading his book *Desperadoes* now out in paperback.

FILM

Smoke on the water



Denis Hopper hits the hard stuff

JOHN TIERNEY reviews *Waterworld*

KEVIN COSTNER's latest role is in the multi-million pound film, *Waterworld*.

So far, the film has only clawed back less than a half of its \$225 million production and marketing costs.

Set in the future when the polar ice-caps have melted, the few remaining humans live on atolls, floating fortresses or ramshackle boats.

The goodies and baddies are clearly defined with Denis Hopper performing brilliantly as one of the bad 'Smokers'. Costner, surprise surprise, is our hero.

Women are portrayed very, very badly in the film. They are supposed to remain in the home—in this case a raft/boat—and be completely subservient to Costner.

The action is good, the special effects fine. The story though, is hammy and predictable. The audience never gets excited which says it all about a movie that cost so much to make.

You won't go to see *Waterworld* twice.

BOOK

Speaking the bosses' language

FOR MOST people getting up on a Monday morning is hateful.

Most of us, who are lucky enough to have a job, do boring, repetitive and probably low paid work.

We don't feel satisfied or properly rewarded. As Karl Marx would have put it, we feel "alienated".

This central point is never dealt with in the new paperback "Ireland in the 21st Century" sponsored by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions.

Instead we get chapters such as "A Different Image (of work)", "Knowledge Content Expanding" and an introduction with Peter Cassells talking about human values and the knowl-

Reviewed by DAMIEN MCLOUGHLIN

edge society.

There's even a section on "Competitiveness—a New Definition"

Countries which will prosper in the 21st century will be actively upgrading and redefining the factors which can give them competitive advantage with new factors being continuously identified.

The banking system is also seen as "critical."

All very well, but the union officials are not speaking the same language as the majority of working class people.

This book is useful though for a number of reasons.

It is full of interesting facts and statistics about pay, birth rates, male/female participation in paid employment etc.

Economy

When dealing with the world economy, there is interesting information on trends and trading.

But while looking at the world of work, the author never mentions the crisis which is in-built within capitalism.

And no matter how change is managed, the driving force of the system is the push for profits, competitiveness and accumulation of profits.

Without an understand-

ing of these forces the author Paddy Walley is writing in a glass house which will be shattered to pieces when the next economic crisis comes around. And come it will.

Trade unionists who believe unions should fight back will be infuriated by this book.

But despite the "new realism" of the union leaders, workers are fighting back against the system more and more.

They may lack confidence and organisation to fight regardless of their union leaders. But it's the ICTU leadership that lacks the bottle to challenge the system, even in a book.

■ *Ireland in the 21st Century* by Paddy Walley, Mercier Press, £6.99

**where
we
stand**

Workers create all the wealth in capitalist society. A new society can only be constructed when they collectively seize control of that wealth and plan its production and distribution.

FOR REVOLUTION, NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be reformed out of existence. Parliament cannot be used to end the system.

The courts army and police are there to defend the interests of the capitalist class not to run society in a neutral fashion.

To destroy capitalism, workers need to smash the state and create a workers' state based on workers' councils.

FOR REAL SOCIALISM, EAST AND WEST:

The SWP welcomed the break-up of the USSR and the end of the East European dictatorships. These states were not socialist but were run by a state-capitalist class. We are against the domination of the globe by imperialist powers and we oppose their wars. We are for the right of all nations, East and West, to self-determination.

FOR AN END TO ALL OPPRESSION

We oppose all forms of oppression which divide and weaken the working class. We are for full social, economic and political equality for women. We stand for: free contraception and free, legalised abortion and the right to divorce; the complete separation of church and state, an end to church control over schools and hospitals; an end to discrimination against gays and lesbians; an end to racism and anti-traveller bigotry. We argue for working class unity in the fight against oppression.

FOR WORKERS' UNITY IN THE NORTH:

Northern Ireland is a sectarian state, propped up by the British Army. Catholic workers are systematically discriminated against by the state. The division between Catholic and Protestant workers weakens the whole working class. Workers' unity can only be won and maintained in a fight to smash both the Northern and Southern states. We stand for the immediate withdrawal of British troops. Violence will only end when workers unite in the fight for a workers' republic.

FOR A FIGHTING TRADE UNION MOVEMENT:

Trade unions exist to defend workers' interests. But the union leaders' role is to negotiate with capitalism - not to end it. We support the leaders when they fight but oppose them when they betray workers. We stand for independent rank and file action.

FOR A REVOLUTIONARY PARTY:

To win socialism socialists need to organise in a revolutionary party. This party needs to argue against right-wing ideas and for overthrowing the system. The SWP aims to build such a party in Ireland.

news & reports—politics; the unions—

Wexford firefighters on strike to defend service...

FIFTY TWO firefighters in Co. Wexford are now fourteen weeks on strike. The strike is against cuts to the tune of £100,000 which the Co. Council are attempting to implement on the fire service.

These cuts would mean a loss in earnings of up 30% for the firefighters and drastic cuts in staffing levels.

The firefighters are a part-time 'retainer' service group.

For most of them it is their only employment and these cuts would have drastic consequences on their living conditions.

Army scabs have been used throughout the county in an attempt to break the strike.

Agenda

Funding for this has come from the Exchequer at a cost of £40,000 each week.

Already the Government has spent nearly four times as much as the Wexford Council was hoping to save by forcing through the cuts.

But the Government have a much wider agenda than just pushing through the cuts in Wexford.

The retainer firefighter service is at stake in many other counties throughout Ireland.

As one shop steward told *Socialist Worker*, "If Wexford is beaten, they think that they can beat the whole lot of us."

This is why the strike in Wexford is crucial.

Firefighters and the entire service will suffer massive attacks from local

councils if the strike in Wexford is not an all-out victory.

Support for the strikers in the local community has

been fantastic.

Money and solidarity messages have been sent to the strikers from other firefighters in Dublin, Belfast,

London and New York.

But action will be the key to winning this dispute.

Two weeks ago delegates from the Retainer Firefight-

ers Association representing fifteen counties met in Wexford to decide on solidarity action for the strike.

The delegates decided that the action should be spread and seven other counties agreed to ballot their members for a full escalation of the strike.

Refuse

Talks have taken place but the council refuse to budge an inch on the cuts and are demanding that the firefighters agree to binding arbitration.

Socialist Worker spoke to a senior representative of the Retainer Firefighters Association, "All the retainer firefighters are fully behind Wexford."

"Our delegates overwhelmingly passed a motion supporting the strike at recent general meetings in Athlone and in Wexford. "We will do whatever it takes to see Wexford win."

But SIPTU stalls on solidarity ballots

TRAGICALLY SIPTU, union which represents the firefighters, are stalling on holding the ballots for strike action to spread.

They have told shop stewards in Wexford that the ballots for further action could be in breach of the Industrial Relations Act, 1990. SIPTU's barristers have advised against taking the ballots.

The strikers are frus-

trated and as one shop steward told *Socialist Worker*, "SIPTU have the barristers running the strike and not us".

Action

All over the country firefighters are waiting to take action to support this strike and action is desperately needed.

But the workers will have to take the action regardless of the law and the barris-

ters. The support on the ground for the strike is tremendous and the law could not hold it back from succeeding.

Dublin firefighters have also shown their support.

A national strike across the country could stifle the Government and the local councils and bring a huge victory for Wexford.

If necessary the anti-union law has to be broken if workers are to win. And as

one of the Wexford pickets pointed out, "You only have to look at the Dunnes strike. They had huge pickets of hundreds of people outside the shops. That's against the law but the law did nothing to them because they were so strong. And they won."

The Wexford strikers should name a day, call the action and rally support from their colleagues, the length and breadth of the country. This would show the way to win.

UTA workers meet threat with strike

ABOUT 800 workers at the UTA plant in Derry stopped work on Friday 25th August in response to strong arm tactics by management.

The workers were provoked into this action by the personnel manager who threatened to sack an entire assembly line.

This macho manager was incensed because someone on the line had interfered with the machinery the previous night.

This piece of industrial sabotage had in turn been provoked by management announcing 200 lay-offs.

The union within the plant had accepted the lay-offs without a whimper of protest and feelings were running high among the hundreds of temporary workers in UTA whose jobs were threatened.

Called-Out

Management 'clocked out' those who had walked out and in response, the convenor called out the rest of the factory for the day.

The workers action did not stop the lay offs taking place.

But it did succeed in forcing management to let the union examine the list of those being laid off to ensure there had been no favouritism or victimisation.

The unions in the factory should have insisted on a last-in, first-out principle for the lay offs.

But instead they agreed to allow management to choose those to be laid off and then refused to spread the workers resistance to the attacks.

Union leaders still refuse to call a general meeting to dis-

cuss the state of representation at the plant—despite a petition signed by almost 500 workers.

As we go to print, workers are still pushing for a general meeting.

Strength

The temporary workers who were laid off were told by union representatives they had no rights if they hadn't worked there for two years.

Yet as one line worker told *Socialist Worker*, "The only job security anyone has

whether they're employed for ten weeks, ten months or ten years, is the strength of the union organisation on the shopfloor."

The workforce at UTA have shown they can act together quickly and in spite of Tory anti-union laws in defence of their rights as workers.

Their walk-out on Friday 25th may not have stopped the lay-offs, but it will have put some manners on a management that has grown used to treating the workers like dirt.

SWP branch meetings—all welcome

BELFAST CENTRAL
Meets every Wednesday at 8pm in Penny Farthing Bar, Upper North Street

8pm in the Anchor Inn, Georges Quay.

BELFAST SOUTH
Meets every Tuesday at 8pm in Queens Students Union.

DERRY
Meets every Tuesday in Badgers Bar at 8pm

CORK
Meets every Thursday at

BRAY
Meets every Thursday at 8pm Contact national address for details.

DUBLIN BLANCHARDSTOWN
Meets every Tuesday at 8pm in the Blakestown Community Centre, Blakestown Way.

DUBLIN COOLOCK
Meets every Thursday at 8pm in the Artane/Beaumont Family Recreation Centre, Kilmore Rd.

DUBLIN CLONDALKIN
Contact 8722682 for details of meetings

DUBLIN DRIMNAGH
Meets every Tuesday at 8.30pm in the Bentley Pub, Drimnagh Road

DUBLIN FINGLAS
Meets every Thursday at 7.30pm in Rosehill

Community Centre, beside Finglas Inn.

DUBLIN NORTH CENTRAL
Meets every Wednesday at 8pm in Conways, Parnell St.

DUBLIN RATHMINES
Meets every Wednesday at 8pm in O'Connells Pub, Richmond Street.

DUBLIN PEARSE ST/RINGSSEND
Meets every Thursday at 8pm in Trinity Inn, Pearse St

DUBLIN TALLAGHT
Contact 8722682 for details of meetings

DUN LAOGHAIRE
Meets every Tuesday at 8pm in Smyths Pub.

GALWAY
Meets every second Thursday at 7.30pm in

Currans Hotel, Eyre Square—contact national address for details.

NEWRY
Meets every Wednesday at 8pm—contact national

address for venue.

WATERFORD

Meets every Thursday at 8pm in ATGWU hall, Waterford.

JOIN THE SOCIALISTS

If you want to join *Socialist Worker*, fill in this form and send it to: PO Box 1648, Dublin 8, Tel: (01) 872 2682

Name

Address.....

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There are *Socialist Worker* members in:

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NIE: Workers reject contracts

WORKERS in Northern Ireland Electricity have voted to reject plans to introduce new work patterns and contracts, despite their union leaders recommendation for acceptance.

NIE want to bring in flexible working shifts from 8am to 8pm, Monday to Saturday and expect workers to work various shifts to make up a 37 hour week. The bosses are attacking the £60 call-out payment for Saturdays and overtime.

In some places up to eight clerical grades are to be scrapped and to add insult to injury the workers have been offered a paltry compensation of 1.5 per cent and 2.98 per cent in a profit share scheme.

Profits

This offer comes from a company that has returned profits of over £90 million.

Management claim that these 'sacrifices' must be made because NIE had now entered the market economy and must be competitive.

NIE now holds a monopoly of the electricity market in Northern Ireland.

Union leaders have held two years of 'secret talks' with management to negotiate cutting jobs and attacks on workers rights.

But with this strong rejection of a lousy deal they should be forced to stand by their members and fight for

their jobs and conditions.

The privatisation of Northern Ireland Electricity has heralded what is now commonplace in privatised industries—attacks on the workers and their rights for bosses to make higher profits.

And the Directors continue to pay themselves even higher salaries.

But these attacks can be

stopped with a strong fightback from the workers.

Fight Off

Last year BT operators staved off similar attacks by management by voting to strike.

Post Office workers this year are once again organising to fight off plans to

privatise Royal Mail.

Workers should organise themselves by calling meetings to force the unions to take a strong stand and back action against these attacks. Strikes by electricity workers have in the past brought the country to a standstill—this would be enough to force any greedy boss to back down.

Royal Mail attacks conditions

ROYAL MAIL have proposed a total restructuring of pay and conditions for postal workers across Northern Ireland. They want to replace two grades (Postworker and Postworker Higher Grade PHG) with a new Unigrade.

Royal Mail claim the new Unigrade will be paid the present PHG wages within two years. But this ignores inflation for the next two years and really amounts to a pay cut for both grades.

Night allowance (NPA) and Saturday Premiums will cease and be replaced by a new shift allowance. This system will also mean a pay cut.

Royal Mail want to bring in the European Week—work five days

out of seven (Saturday and Sunday will be the same as any other working day).

Proposals for new team working will have one worker supervising another—Royal Mail will be paying less and squeezing more out of every worker.

Team working will make it harder to change shifts, hours or duty as workers will be treated as part of a certain team rather than as individual workers

Protected

Team working will get rid of particular duties that the union has protected and improved over the years.

This means that benefits will be lost—work could be forced through at a faster rate.

Telecom: Stop the sell-off

WORKERS in Telecom Eireann face the biggest threat so far to their jobs as the government seeks a buyer for 35 per cent of the semi state company.

The potential buyers are being invited to forge a 'strategic alliance' with Telecom designed to boost its performance when it is opened up to outside competition.

But already Telecom boss Alfie Kane is talking about the need to cut thousands of jobs in the company.

Kane insults the workers

who have built up Telecom by claiming that there are too many of them and that the wage bill will have to be reduced.

Earnings

He should start with his own colossal earnings estimated at close to £200,000.

The union leaders in Telecom have played a disgusting role so far. Dave Begg of the CWU and John O'Dowd of the CPSU have accepted the argument for part privatisation despite

years of rhetoric against it.

Begg's main concern is over which of the five multinational bidders will win out. The CWU rightly opposes Cable and Wireless because of their anti-union record—but British Telecom are not much better having destroyed thousands of jobs themselves in the past decade.

As one Telecom worker told *Socialist Worker*:

"Instead of acting like judges at a beauty contest our union leaders should be leading a fight against this sell-off. If we let 35 per cent go now it will be only a matter of time before the company is fully privatised."

Brickies' victory

PICKETS ON a Trinity College building site were lifted last week after workers won a three week long strike.

The building contractors had sacked five workers for trade union activity, including the shop steward. All five have been reinstated with no victimisation.

The workers union BATU has now secured negotiations with the CIF (Construction Industry Federation) on the issues affecting sub-contracting.

The brickies on the site are angry with their conditions of employment under sub-contracting.

This is widely practised in Dublin building sites and does not offer the same protection and benefits to workers.

Construction workers around Dublin should take a lead from the brickies and start to organise in their unions for decent conditions.

Teachers face longer hours

Niamh Breathnach, the Minister for Education, wants teachers to work more hours.

She issued a circular called *Time in School* just two weeks before the new school year begins, and at a time when talks are to begin on an early retirement deal for teachers.

The thrust of the circular is that there should be much tighter controls over schools in respect of days off and in particular half-days.

These half-days will no longer be treated as a full school day. The half-day

will now have to be compensated for, resulting in a shorter mid-term break or shorter holidays.

Schools will now have to reach a minimum of 28 teaching hours per week.

Adding

This completely ignores the hours that teachers put in, over and above the teaching hours, in preparation time, meeting parents, extra-curricular activities etc.

But that is not all. The Minister also wants negotiations on adding an extra six days onto the school teach-

ing year.

This has come at a time when teachers have become increasingly frustrated with the way they are being treated.

Their frustration was shown last term by the way they overwhelmingly voted for strike action on the issue of early retirement.

The Unions and Principals of schools have criticised the circular and are opposed to it.

Teachers have shown how militant they can be on the early retirement issue. They need to do the same in relation to this circular.

Socialist Worker Trade Union Conference

Saturday 23rd September
Teachers Club, 36 Parnell Square

SESSIONS INCLUDE:

Rebuilding Union Organisation:

Jim Larmour (Belfast Trades Council); Marnie Holborow (SIPTU Shop Steward)

Militancy or Partnership:

Eamonn McCann (Derry trades Council); Jimmy Kelly (Chief Shop Steward,

Waterford Glass)

Socialists in the unions:

Brid Smith (Socialist Worker Industrial Correspondent); Laura Duffy (INTO Shop Steward)

Time to make our unions fight... Come along and discuss how we rebuild solidarity and militancy...

Why I'm going ...

"I'm looking forward to this conference... I'm absolutely fed up with the lack of lead coming from the trade union leaders... All trade unionists who want to see a fightback should be there."—John, a painter in Dublin Corporation

Please send me more details and a full programme of the Socialist Worker Trade Union Conference

Name.....

Address.....

.....Phone.....

Return to Socialist Worker Trade Union Conference, PO Box 1648, Dublin 8 or Tel: (01) 872 2682

Open to all supporters of the Socialist Worker newspaper

Irish Press:

Rehire all the workers

IT NOW looks as though at least one of the *Irish Press* titles will be relaunched. Vincent Jennings and Eamonn de Valera are talking about re-starting the *Sunday Press*.

No journalist should accept work from these two bosses, and the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) has called on its members to boycott them.

They were happy to throw 600 printers, journalists and clerical staff on the scrapheap for months in order to whittle down their newspapers' debts. In addition they jointly own *Irish*

Press Newspapers with Independent Newspapers' Tony O'Reilly who would gain even more control over the Irish newspaper market.

Now the *Press* unions must prepare to fight for the re-hiring of all *Press* workers, no matter what management comes in.

It was not overstaffing which ran the *Press* into the ground, it was its cynical, manipulative management.

When all three *Press* titles were appearing, employing 600 staff, even their competition, the *Irish Independent*, said that proper management could make

them viable again without any job losses.

Yet the American consortium talked about taking back a pathetic 50 people!

This means the NUJ, IPU and SIPTU must fight for guarantees that each *Irish Press* title will re-hire the number of people it originally employed.

No worker in print, journalism, or distribution should handle an *Irish Press* newspaper as long as there is no agreement on staffing levels.

Any attempt to publish with less workers should be met by mass pickets outside the new *Irish Press* offices.

Socialist Worker

inside

A world at war
—page eight

Anti-nazis face jail
—page five

Unionist Party are all...

A bunch of Orange Tories

THE UNIONIST Party is in the midst of a leadership crisis. Different factions are jockeying to get to run the party.

The departure of Molyneux reflects the deep worries of the Unionist middle class who make up the backbone of the party.

They recognise that the Downing St Declaration means that the British establishment is pulling away from them.

In any new settlement in Northern Ireland, there will be growing competition from the new Catholic middle class who want a share of the jobs as barristers, professors and managers.

One wing of Unionism believes they can modernise. They want to loosen their connection with the Orange Order and become more presentable in the media.

Streets

The other wing wants to align more closely with Paisley. They are prepared to take to the streets to get a better deal from any settlement.

But whichever wing wins, the Unionist Party will remain a completely sectarian institution. One third of the voters in this contest will come directly from delegates of the Orange Order. Catholics are directly excluded from this organisation.

The furcoat brigade which have dominated Unionism has always used the cloak of sectarianism to keep their privileges.

In the 1930s, when Protestant and Catholic workers fought back together against unemployment, the Unionist Party leader Craig called on Protestants "not to be duped by those who had no

The right wing contenders

THE FOUR contenders for the Unionist leadership are wealthy right wing politicians who have a long record of sectarianism.

■ **JOHN TAYLOR:** Is a rich businessman with a huge mansion in Armagh. He joined the far right wing block in the European Parliament which included the French fascist Le Pen. He recently warned the people of the Shankill of the 'dangers of immigration'.

He claimed that the murder of Catholics by Loyalists was "helpful" and "positive".

love for the Union Jack" and asked for "Protestants, rich and poor to stand together."

In 1945, the Unionist Party opposed the setting up of the Welfare state. They thought it would mean too much tax on the rich.

Today the Unionist Party has helped to keep the Tories in power. The Tories would never have got VAT on fuel if it were not for the votes of some Unionist MPs.

They would never have been able to

■ **WILLIAM ROSS:** is a big farmer from County Derry. He is a member of a right wing group inside the Tory Party, the Monday Club.

A supporter of capital punishment, he is not against more unofficial killings. He justified the murder of the Sinn Fein activist, Thomas Donaghy.

■ **KEN MAGINNIS:** has been called a liberal by the media. Nothing could be further from the truth. This ex B Special and UDR Major has regularly called for 'selective internment'.

He even denounced animal rights protestors as 'paid communist agitators'.

■ **MARTIN SMYTH:** is the Grand Master of the Orange Order. He accused the people of the Lower Ormeau of "Nazi Fascism" because they protested at his parades.

Smyth has more in common with fellow Catholic bigots than most Protestant workers. He joined with Joe Hendron of the SDLP and SPUC to oppose the Brook Centre because it gave advice on contraception to teenagers.

close down the mines in Britain—were it not for Unionist votes.

The Unionist Party is a vicious right wing group of Tories. Just like their counterparts in Fianna Fail and Fine Gael in the South they pretend to protect "their tradition" and "their community" so that they can ram through their anti-working class policies.

The splits in the Unionist Party should be used to tell every worker that it is time to get the Orange and Green Tories off our backs.



Molyneux: Good riddance

Is a De Klerk needed?

MORE THAN a year ago, Gerry Adams claimed that the Protestant community needed a 'De Klerk' to negotiate a compromise with Catholics. Today it is a call that has found a stronger echo in the media.

De Klerk was a pro-apartheid politician who financed the death squads in order to break the ANC. He failed because the militancy of black workers became a threat to his system.

De Klerk did a deal with the ANC only because he recognised that South African capitalism and some white privilege could be preserved under an ANC-National Party government.

His compromises had nothing to do with 'statesmanship'.

There is no comparison between

Protestant workers and whites in South Africa. No Protestant worker, for example, has ever hired a Catholic maid to look after their swimming pool.

Interests

But Adams still treats Protestant workers as a privileged caste. This is why he believes they need a liberal Tory to represent them.

It is nonsense. The fur coat brigade of Unionism has always opposed the real interests of Protestant workers.

It has used sectarianism as a way to protect its wealth and privilege.

What Protestant workers need is not a de Klerk—but a network of fighting socialists who put class interest before communal identity.